

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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India

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Monsoon Report 1

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

The southwest monsoon has arrived in Kerala on June 5th, almost 4 days behind schedule. According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), conditions favor the monsoon advance to soon cover most of the southern states including parts of Maharashtra and Northeastern states. On April 26, 2012, IMD issued a normal monsoon forecast for 2012.

General Information:

Monsoon Progress

The southwest monsoon, critical for India's agricultural production, arrived in Kerala on June 5, 2012, almost 4 days behind the anticipated start of June 1st (*Figure 1*). The monsoon has advanced to cover Kerala, the coastal area of Karnataka and southern Tamil Nadu. Conditions are favorable for further advance into the remaining parts of coastal Karnataka, Goa, south Konkan, Tamil Nadu, south Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, interior Karnataka, the northeastern states, and the Bay of Bengal.

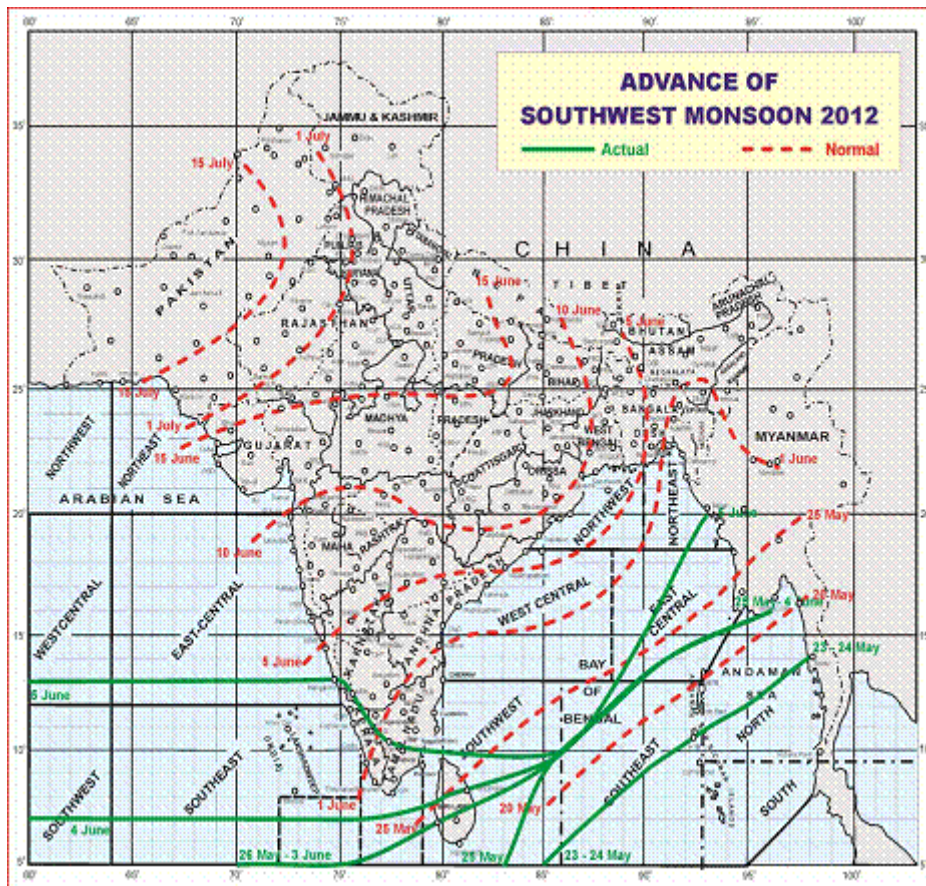
Performance

For the week beginning May 24 through May 30, 2012, monsoon rains were 75 percent below normal; with deficient to no-rains in 35 weather subdivisions (*Figure 2*). The below normal rain coverage was primarily in eastern states, with central and western India remaining completely dry. Planting of most *kharif* (fall and early harvested) crops, especially rain fed crops such as rice, soybeans, peanut, cotton, coarse grains, and pulses, will resume after the monsoon reaches the major growing areas. With almost 55 percent of agricultural land dependent on rain, the spatial and temporal distribution of monsoon rains is vital for sustaining agricultural production. Even in irrigated areas, good monsoon rains will likely to boost yields and reduce the costs of production.

Forecast

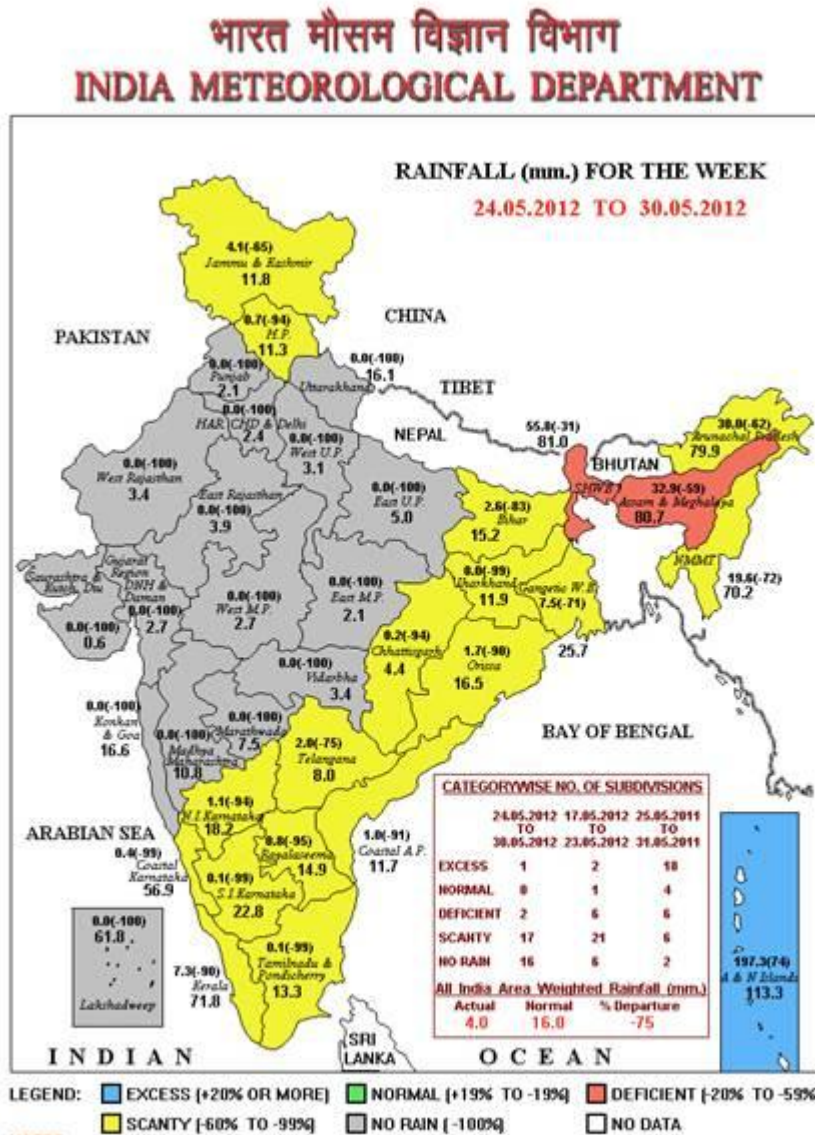
On April 26, 2012, the IMD released its long-range forecast for the June-September monsoon season, predicting a normal monsoon for third consecutive year (i.e. within the range of 96 to 104 percent of the Long Period Average (LPA) ([IMD Press Release](#)). This year's monsoon rainfall is expected to be 99 percent of the LPA with a model error of +/- 5 percent. IMD will continue to issue monthly forecasts in July and August, as well as a seasonal update on nationwide rainfall.

Figure 1: India: Monsoon progress as of June 6, 2012



Source: IMD, GOI

Figure 2: India: Rainfall for the week ending May 30, 2012



Source: IMD, GOI